

St. Paul Lutheran Church

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: David Reim

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Organist: Julie Reim **Usher:** Guy and Ken

Preparation for worship: Psalm 45 (Hymnal pg. 133)

Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 20, 2022

You will see Him Coming in the Clouds
with Great Power and Glory!

† † †

Invocation:

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C:



A _____ men.

Opening Hymn: 609 Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

1. "Wake, awake, for night is flying," The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"

Midnight hears the welcome voices And at the thrilling cry rejoices:

"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise? The Bridegroom comes, awake!

Your lamps with gladness take! Hallelujah!

With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing,

She wakes, she rises from her gloom;

For her Lord comes down all-glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious,

Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.

"Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son,

Hail! Hosanna! The joyful call We answer all

And follow to the nuptial hall."

3. Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, Let men and angels sing before Thee,
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No vision ever brought, No ear hath ever caught,
Such great glory; Therefore will we Eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee.

Call to Worship:

P: “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

C: Men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth.

P: For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

C: Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

P: Now when these things begin to happen,

C: look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” (Luke 21:25-27)

P: “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

C: For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

P: Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass,

C: and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:34-36)

Confession of Sin: From Psalm 32

P: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

P: When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long.

C: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.

P: I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden.

C: I said, “I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

Cong. & Pastor: Oh Lord, our merciful and gracious God, we humbly confess all our sins unto You. We plead for Your mercy, Lord. Do not deal with us according to our sins, but graciously forgive us for Jesus sake and

richly bless us with Your love. Grant that we may worship You today with clean hands and a pure heart and may our worship and praise be acceptable in Your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: God our Father has had mercy upon us. He has given His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into death for us and for His sake He forgives us all our sins.

Sing: Melody of hymn 292

**O faithful God, thanks be to Thee For You forgive iniquity.
You grant us help in sin's distress,
And soul and body You shall bless.**

**O Lord, we bless Your gracious heart,
For You Yourself do heal our smart
Thru' Christ our Savior's precious blood,
Which for the sake of sinners flowed.**

Responsive Reading: from Psalm 98

P: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things;

C: His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

P: The Lord has made known His salvation;

C: His righteousness He has openly shown in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;

C: Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

P: Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm,

C: Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.

P: For He is coming to judge the earth,

C: With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 51:4-6

(Printed on Back)

4 "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. 5 My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. 6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

Jude 20-25

20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. 22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. 24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Gradual

P: I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord:

C: Thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

P: Then you shall call upon Me and pray unto Me, and I will hear you:

C: And I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations and from all places.

P: Lord, You have been favorable unto Your land:

C: You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:32-37

(Printed on Back)

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Confession of Faith: Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended

into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 608 Let Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road

1. Let thoughtless thousands choose the road That leads the soul away from God;
This happiness, dear Lord, be mine, To live and die entirely Thine.
2. On Christ, by faith, I fain would live, From Him my life, my all, receive,
To Him devote my fleeting hours, Serve Him alone with all my pow'rs.
3. Christ is my everlasting All; To Him I look, on Him I call;
He will my ev'ry want supply In time and thro' eternity.
4. Soon will the Lord, my Life, appear; Soon shall I end my trials here,
Leave sin and sorrow, death and pain. To live is Christ, to die is gain.
5. Soon will the saints in glory meet, Soon walk through every golden street,
And sing on every blissful plain: To live is Christ, to die is gain.

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

“5 Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, 2 for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. 4 But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, 5 for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober. 7 To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.”

Theme:

You Know What's Coming Seek Higher Ground!

1. Don't Go to Sleep!
2. Put on Faith, Love and Hope!

Hymn: 396 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink

1. Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink Of poverty or woe;
2. That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain Can lean upon its God;
3. A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without;
That, when in danger, knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt;
4. That bears unmoved the world's dread frown Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown Nor Satan's arts beguile;
5. A faith that keeps the narrow way Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heavenly ray Lights up the dying bed.
6. Lord give us such a faith as this; And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.

Offerings from Thankful Hearts:

Hymn 441 st. 1-2 (while offering is presented)

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!**

Prayers for the Church:

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

L: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

6
12

Cre ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re
new a right spir_ it with in me_____ Cast me not a -

way from your pre-sence, and take not your ho-ly Spir - it from me. —

22 — Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

28 hold me with your spir - it free. — Cre - ate in me a clean

heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. —

Responsive Reading: Revelation 22:12-20 selected verses

P: Jesus says, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me,

C: to give to every one according to his work.

P: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life,

C: and may enter through the gates into the city.

P: I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.

C: I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.

P: And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come.

C: Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

P: He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”

C: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Closing Hymn: 398 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

1. Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Thy holy face.

2. Destroy in me the lust of sin, From all impureness make me clean.
Oh, grant me power and strength, my God, To strive against my flesh and blood!
3. Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Thy Word
And naught but what Thou wilt, desire; With such new life my soul inspire.
4. Grant that I only Thee may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold Thee face to face, O Light eternal, through Thy grace.

Scripture Treasure to Remember

Matthew 25:21

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”

The Season of Advent

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new Church Year. Advent is a season of preparation. Jesus’ First Advent has made it possible for us to look ahead with anticipation to Christ’s Second Advent. Just as a little child can’t wait till Christmas, so we are waiting with anticipation for Jesus’ second coming and we prepare our hearts to meet Him. Therefore we focus on our reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ which gives us Hope, Peace and Joy.

Advent also symbolizes our spiritual journey. Knowing that Jesus will come again in power gives us a reason for holy living. It gives us a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God’s people.

Advent also speaks of our accountability before God and His judgment against sin. Therefore, the Season of Advent is a time of penitence for sins. It is only through the life, death and resurrection of the One born in Bethlehem, that we can look forward to His coming for judgment. By repentant faith we prepare for His Advent at the end of the world.

It is that call to repentance that gives reason for the purple color of Advent. This points to an important connection between Jesus’ birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion. Jesus came into the world to redeem lost sinners. So our humble repentance is an important part of our preparation. Purple is also the color of royalty, which is fitting as we prepare for our King.



There is also great joy as we await Jesus' Advent. This joy of the season is reflected in the rose candle on the third Sunday of Advent. Let us prepare our hearts for Jesus' return and celebrate with Joy His coming to save us.

Announcements

Today: Sunday School and Bible Class at 11:20

Monday: Adult Instruction Class at 11:00

Wednesday: Skype Bible Study with Kenneth at 9:30

Bible Study with Karrie at 2:30.

Thursday: Visit George Rosenberg in Armstrong at 1:00

Friday: Visit Rosemarie Schwabe at 1:00

Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

Worship Service at 10:00

Sunday School and Bible Class at 11:15

Coffee and Snacks

We are allowed to have coffee and snacks with our Bible Study hour. If you would like to bring something, please coordinate with Marlies.

Choir and Instruments

If you would like to sing or play your instruments for Christmas, please speak with the pastor today to plan rehearsal times.

Congregation Christmas Dinner

We have reserved the kitchen for a Christmas Dinner on December 18th. It is good to be able to enjoy our fellowship meals together again.

Voters Meeting Report

Treasurer's Report: Our financial picture appears to have improved slightly since July, but that is only because the treasurer has had to draw from our US account to keep up with monthly expenses. We typically fall short of our expenses by \$200 - 300 per month. The balance in our General Fund was – \$127.80 at the end of September, but our US account has also been depleted almost \$1000 in the past three months. That may seem like a big problem, but it really only amounts to about \$10 per family per week. Consider if you are able to make a small increase to keeping this congregation afloat. We also pray for the Lord's blessings on our work.

Artificial Plants wanted

The People place is wanting to spruce up this room a bit. They are getting rid of some of the extra chairs and the couch. They would also like to brighten the room with some artificial plants. If anyone has any fake plants they are getting rid of, the People Place will gladly take them.

The People place is also making arrangements to have a security guard here on Sunday mornings when we arrive from 9:00 -10:30.